

Congrats on getting this far!  
Good luck!

Ministerul Educației Naționale  
Inspectoratul Școlar al Municipiului București  
OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ 2012-2013 - Etapa pe sector - clasa a X-a - varianta 2

I. (10 points) Read the text below and decide which variant (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.

Imagine having a full orchestra (1) \_\_\_\_\_ into your house. For a start, with so many people, it would get very stuffy indeed. The patience of the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ would soon wear thin. Also, you would need earplugs for the percussion, and the brass (3) \_\_\_\_\_ would probably drink everything in your fridge. An acceptable alternative is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ by the sampler, a piece of equipment that records, edits and mixes a wide variety of sounds electronically - the musical equivalent of a word processor. The sampler can alter the length of sounds - for example, it can slow down the human voice to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ something very unusual. Another feature is that the recorded sound can be (6) \_\_\_\_\_ back at any pitch - the woof of a small dog can be (7) \_\_\_\_\_ into a Bark prelude and fugue! Joking (8) \_\_\_\_\_, the first digitally-sampled sounds did in fact belong to a dog. 1980s 'synth-pop' (9) \_\_\_\_\_ extensive use of the sampler. It was customary to include orchestral 'stabs': a single short (10) \_\_\_\_\_ from an entire symphony orchestra inside a tin box.

- |    |                |              |               |               |
|----|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1  | A - cramped    | B - filled   | C - pressed   | D - placed    |
| 2  | A - controller | B - governor | C - driver    | D - conductor |
| 3  | A - team       | B - section  | C - group     | D - band      |
| 4  | A - handled    | B - offered  | C - shown     | D - suggested |
| 5  | A - discover   | B - bring    | C - create    | D - lead      |
| 6  | A - played     | B - gone     | C - taken     | D - run       |
| 7  | A - got        | B - turned   | C - exchanged | D - set       |
| 8  | A - beside     | B - alone    | C - aside     | D - only      |
| 9  | A - did        | B - put      | C - drew      | D - made      |
| 10 | A - note       | B - key      | C - sign      | D - made      |

II. (10 points) Fill the gaps in the text below with ONE suitable word:

The rarest and most expensive types of mushrooms in the world are called truffles and are considered a great delicacy. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the mushrooms we eat most of the time, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ grow above the ground, truffles grow underground in natural woodland. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ date, no one has been able to cultivate truffles. They grow wild and have to be hunted for. However, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to the commercial value of truffles, in most countries it is not possible to hunt for them (5) \_\_\_\_\_ you have a licence to do so. Ripe truffles produce a characteristic odour. If harvested before this odour develops, the truffle will not be mature (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to eat. It is therefore (7) \_\_\_\_\_ surprise that it is the smell of the truffle that leads the hunter to the right place. Dogs, with their keen noses, have been entrusted (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the responsibility of truffle hunting. After (9) \_\_\_\_\_, a dog's sense of smell is (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to 10,000 times better than that of a human.

III. (10 points) Read the text below and use the words given in capitals to form words that fit in the gaps. The words in capitals are given in the order in which you need to use them:

1-DOUBT 2-CAST 2-RESOLVE 4-WEIGH 5-COVER 6-SIDE 7-OUT 8-PRECEDE 9-GROWTH 10-LINE

The year 2013 will (1) \_\_\_\_\_ be a great year for many of us wondering what's in store for us. Expert (2) \_\_\_\_\_ are predicting it will be one of the best years ever. It will be one of those years when record numbers of people will stick to and keep their New Year's (3) \_\_\_\_\_. That means millions of smokers will quit smoking and the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ will make a more conscious effort to trim their waistlines. It should also be an easier year on the pocket as the world economy (5) \_\_\_\_\_ slightly from its recent shocks and downturns. In technology, all eyes will be on Apple to see if it will launch another revolutionary product. Industry (6) \_\_\_\_\_ say rumours are spreading of an Apple television. There is also good news for those hoping to make gains with their English. An abundance of great new tools will hit the shelves of both online and traditional stores (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the year. These will provide students with an (8) \_\_\_\_\_ variety of products to help them in areas they want to improve on.



The Internet will also see a lot more sites aimed at providing students with ways to interact with others around the world in English. More and more learners will study English in cyberspace from a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ army of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ teachers. 2013 will also see record numbers of people studying abroad, but not just English - millions will start learning Chinese, as China grows increasingly important in business.

**IV. (20 points) Rephrase the following sentences so that they contain the words in capitals, and so that the meaning stays the same:**

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1. Ursula was disappointed not to win the competition.<br>Not winning the competition..... to Ursula.                          | CAME   |
| 2. Bridget would love to have long hair.<br>Bridget ..... long hair.   | WISHES |
| 3. It was so hot that she fainted.<br>She ..... it hadn't been so hot.   | IF     |
| 4. The coffee machine in our office hasn't worked for three months.<br>The coffee machine in our office..... for three months. | OUT    |
| 5. The town was so unfriendly that we left immediately.<br>It was ..... we left immediately.                                   | AN     |
| 6. Perhaps the car needs a new engine.<br>The car ..... a new engine.  | NEED   |
| 7. She didn't go out until after Mike had called.<br>She waited until Mike ..... out.  | BEFORE |
| 8. I have no doubt that she was lying about her intentions.<br>She ..... her intentions.                                       | BEEN   |
| 9. Jim and Peter will probably start their own business soon.<br>Jim and Peter .....their own business soon.                   | LIKELY |
| 10. She found the photographs when she was cleaning her room.<br>She ..... when she was cleaning her room.                     | CAME   |

**V. (50 points) - FORMAL LETTER**

You see this advertisement in an English language magazine and you decide to apply for the post advertised, as it would give you the opportunity to spend the summer in England.

**UNIVERSAL BOOKSHOPS**

We are hiring people to work as shop assistants in our international bookshops in the months of July and August.

\*Do you like reading?

\*Have you worked in a similar post before?

\*Do you have a good level of English?

Send in your application to Mr. Miller, saying why you think you are suitable for a position in one of our bookshops.

Write your letter in 150-180 words. Sign it as Tom Jenkins.

**SCRIEȚI RĂSPUNSURILE PE FOAIA DE RĂSPUNS (ANSWER SHEET). BARĂȚI TOATE SPAȚIILE NECOMPLETATE.**  
**TIMP DE LUCRU: 3 ORE. NU SE ACORDĂ PUNCTE DIN OFICIU.**